learn more about our Parliamentary system, our country and our people, and their visit to this country will further strengthen the friendly bonds that exist between India and Hungary. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the Parliament and the friendly people of Hungary.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS —contd.

Q. No. 162—contd.

DR. L.M. SINGHVI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, while the measures taken by the Government recently have been in marked contrast to the neglect shown in the past, I am afraid, neither the industry in this country nor the people who specialise this subject are satisfied with the measures taken. I would like to know whether there is an adequate machinery for intelligent anticipation of dumping activities. If there is a swift preventive action, and if we streamline the machinery in such a way that it strikes a certain kind of fear in the hearts of those who are engaged in the dumping activity and who are making India a happy hunting ground for dumping of all kinds of goods across-the-board, dumping can be avoided to a great extent.

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: I am afraid in this particular matter we cannot take any preventive action, because action arises only after an act of dumping takes place. The hon. Member is very well-known in the UK, apart from being the illustrious High Commissioner of India, and he is quite aware that there are procedures which have to be followed. If there was a question of taking preventive action, we would certainly take. We have streamlined the present organisation. We have legal experts, we have commercial experts, we have other experts who will help this organisation. Therefore, we have not failed in taking action in regard to anti-dumping measures.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 163.

Plantation labour in tea gardens of Assam

*163. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of plantation labour in tea gardens of Assam;

(b) how many private companies own the tea gardens in Assam;

(c) what profits have been shown by these companies in last three yeas; and

(d) what amount from this profit have they utilised for investment in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) 6,89,848.

(b) 332.

(c) and (d) The information is not readily available.

SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Sir, my first supplementary is this. We understand from the hon. Minister's reply that there are about seven lakh workers there. If we take their families also into account, it is a population of about thirty lakhs that is involved in this industry. The conditions of workers are deplorable. They don't get food salaries. An adult worker gets only Rs.29/- per day. They don't have good living accommodation. They don't have medical facilities. They don't have cultural and educational facilities. So, my humble question to the hon. Minister is whether the Government is aware of the deplorable condition of the workers and, if it is, is it trying to ameliorate their conditions, is it trying to change those conditions and see to it that these tea-garden companies do something in this regard?

डॉ सत्यनारायण जटिया: माननीय सभापतिजी, आसाम में बागान श्रमिकों को शासित करने वाला मुख्य अधिनियम बागान श्रम अधिनियम 1951 है जो जम्मू-काश्मीर को छोड़कर पूरे भारत में लागू है। बागान श्रम अधिनियम का क्रियान्वयन राज्य सरकार करती है। इस विधान में आवश्यक संशोधन केन्द्रीय सरकार करती

है। इस अधिनियम का प्रभावी ढंग से परिवर्तन करने के लिए राज्य सरकारें उस राज्य के लिए राजकीय राजपत्र में अधिसूचना जारी कर किसी सम्यक योग्यता प्राप्त व्यक्ति को मुख्य बागान निरीक्षक के रूप में नियुक्त कर इन सारी बातों का निरीक्षण कर सकती है और उसमें वे जितना चाहें उस प्रकार का परिवर्तन कर सकती है। तो जो उपलब्ध हमारे पास बागान श्रम अधिनियम है उसी के अंतर्गत चाय बागानों में काम करने वालों के लिए अस्पतालों, औषधालयों, स्कूलों की सारी चीजें लागू हैं। **जहां 15 से अधिक लोग काम करते हैं, यह अधिनियम** लागू होता है।

SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Sir, my second supplementary is this. The hon. Minister didn't reply to the second part of my question regarding (c) and (d). I asked as to how much profit had been earned by the private tea-garden companies. He said that there were 332 companies. We know that these companies earned a profit of more than fifteen hundred crores of rupees. What part of this amount has been utilised by these companies for developmental work and for the industry in Assam? There were reports in some newspapers that some tea-garden companies gave help to militants there. Instead of helping the militants, if they had used this money for development work, it would, perhaps, have helped the people of Assam. What is the position of the Government in this regard?

डा० सत्यनारायण जटिया: मान्यवर, जो स्थिति लाभ की है टी कंपनियों के लिए जैसे कि मैंने पहले बताया था कि टी कंपनियों के लिए जरूरी नहीं है कि वे अपने लाभ को सार्वजनिक रूप से प्रकट करें। जो जानकारी उपलब्ध है उसमें बताया है कि यह काफी लाभ है। जो जानकारी हमारे पास आई हुई है उसमें जो राशि दी गई है उसमें 1992-93 में 12.1 करोड़, 1993-94 में 10.9 करोड़ और 1994-95 में 6 करोड़ 6 लाख है। इस प्रकार यह राशि हमारे पास दिखाई गई है। क्योंकि आप जानते हैं कि श्रम मंत्रालय से संबंधित प्रश्न का उत्तर तो मैंने दिया, परन्तु जो उपलब्ध जानकारी मेरे पास थी उसको मैंने आपको बताया है। इसके साथ ही साथ जिस प्रकार का मैंने उत्तर दिया था 6 करोड़ 13 लाख रुपये चाय बागानों में काम करने वाले लोगों के चिकित्सा कल्याण, खेल और बाकी की सांस्कृतिक गतिविधियों व उनके विकास के लिए पिछले 8 वर्षों में व्यय किए हैं यह जानकारी अभी मैंने आपके माध्यम से माननीय सदस्य को दी है।

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Sir, this question pertains to the number of plantation labour in tea gardens of Assam. But, the most important aspect is that this area is a fall-malarial area. The labourers working in these gardens are affected by tuberculosis. I want to know from the Government whether any action has been taken or any arrangement has been made by the State Government so far as health of the labourers is concerned.

डा० सत्यनारायण जटिया: मैंने अभी जो जानकारी दी थी माननीय सभापति जी, उसमें संशोधन करना चाहता हूं कि वह जो जानकारी थी वह उनके पास जो नेट एसेट्स थे उसका परसेंटेज था। वह 1992-93 में 12.1 परसेंट, 1993-94 में 10.9 प्रतिशत और 1994-95 में 6.6 प्रतिशत, इस प्रकार यह जानकारी देने का काम मैंने किया है। और इसी आधार पर यह जो सारी कंपनियां हैं अपना लाभांश कमाती हैं। उस लाभांश को प्रकट करने का प्रावधान उनके विधान में नहीं है कि वे उनको प्रकट करें और बाकी की बातों को करें।

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Sir, my question is different. I am not asking about the percentage being reserved for that. I am asking about the healthcare which has been taken by the Government.

डा० सत्यनारायण जटिया: मान्यवर, मैंने जैसा बताया है कि बागान श्रम अधिनियम को लागू करने का दायित्व राज्य सरकारों का है कि वे उसको लागू करें और उसके साथ-साथ हेल्थ केअर व बाकी गतिविधियों का संचालन और बाकी की जो बातें हैं वे भी सम्मिलित हैं और इन्हें देखने का काम वहां की राज्य सरकारों को करना है।

SHRI JIBON ROY: Sir, in Assam plantations, specially in the tea garden area a kind of slavery still persists. That area is the hunting ground of extremist activities also. For a long time, you have finalised a collective bargaining agent; so far as I know, it is the sole bargaining agent there. But, it has not been

reveiwed for many years. All the tea gardens are under that single collective bargaining agent, and you don't allow any other bargaining agency, trade-union to enter in. I would suggest that the Government should review the position in a meeting of all the trade-unions in the plantation area, and see that a real collectve bargaining agency in which the say of the tea gardens, invididual tea gardens prevails, is established there. I want to know whether the Government is going to convene a meeting to settle this issue.

डा० सत्यानारायण जटिया: मान्यवर, माननीय सदस्य ने जो सुझाव दिया है उस पर मंत्रालय विचार करेगा और उचित निर्णय लेगा।

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the reply given by the hon. Minister in regard to the total amount of profit that has been shown by these companies in the last three years, and also the amount of profit which they have declared for investment in Assam is totally false. As Members of Parliament, we must be informed about the facts, and if this is not readily available, the Government should collect it and make it available to all the Members. I want to have an assurance from the hon. Minister so that this information is provided to this House. Sir, the second part of my supplementary is, tea production in Assam is a very lucrative business for centuries. Many of these companies are earning profit for years together. But, they have a tendency of hiding this profit depriving labour as well as State economy. I would like to know whether the Government will bring any legislation compelling these companies to utilise 50 per cent of their proft for the welfare of the State and for the welfare of the labour.

डा० सत्यनारायण जटिया: सर, जो विद्यमान बागान श्रम अधिनियम, 1951 है, उस के तहत और बाकी कल्याण गतिविधियों को चलाने के लिए जो उपबंध है, उसी आधार पर यह किया जाय तथा जैसाकि माननीय सदस्य ने सुझाव दिया है कि इस संदर्भ में क्या कोई और प्रभावी श्रम कानून हो, इस तरह का विधान लाने के संबंध में विचार करने के बारे में मैं कह सकता हूं।

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, I requested that this information should be supplied to the House because the reply given by him is not complete. The Minister has said that the information is not available. I would like to know whether he will collect this information and place it on the Table of the House.

डा० सत्यनारायण जटिया: सर, मैंने जो जानकारी चाही गयी है, वह सारी दे दी है। इस संबंध में माननीय सदस्य कोई और जानकारी चाहेंगे तो वे व्यक्तिगत रूप से प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, tea industry is the most important industry for the State of Assam. The entire economy depends on this industry. Therefore, the workers are also very important in the State of Assam for tea industry. The terrorists are not sparing even these workers. I would like to know whether the Government is doing anything in this regard in order to help these poor workers so that they are not attacked by the terrorists. Otherwise, they are leaving the State. Some cases have come to notice where the workers have left the State. I would like to know whether the Government is planning anything in this regard so that the tea-garden companies are provided enough security for giving protection to the labour.

श्री सत्यनारायण जटिया: सर, वास्तव में यह प्रश्न श्रम से संबंधित था, परंतु माननीय सदस्य ने जो चिंता व्यक्त की है कि उन को बाकी की सुरक्षा भी दी जानी चाहिए, इस संबंध में सरकार को सूचित करने का काम मैं करुंगा।

SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Sir, I have a question for the hon. Minister, whether he will take an initiative for this rather important but unnoticed problem, that is, there is a shortage of workers in the tea industry, particularly during the height of the season, the monsoon. The reason for this is that the children, the

more literate children of the old tea-garden workers, are not happly to pluck leaves or to expose themselves in the fields. Now, contrasted with this is that the incentive wage is very low; it is only 10 per cent of the time-rated wage. I would like to know whether the Minister would be happy to take an initiative in this regard so that the incentive wage is increase, the efficient workers are encouraged for plucking more and more leave and this national crop does not get affected or lost. Thank you, Sir.

श्री सत्यनारायण जटिया: माननीय सभापति जी, चाय बागान में काम करने वाले कामगारों के लिए न्यूनतम वेतन निश्चित करने का काम भी राज्य सरकारों को ही करना है और राज्य सरकारें समय-समय पर इसे घोषित करती हैं। हम ने इन-जनरल मान्य बाकी मजदूरों के लिए न्यूनतम वेतन घोषित करने का काम किया है और उस संबंध में सभी मुख्य मंत्रियों को सूचित किया है कि वह 40 रुपए से कम नहीं होना चाहिए, उस में महंगाई भत्ता शामिल कर मजदूरों को दिया जाना चाहिए। सर, यह एक्सक्लूजिवली राज्य सरकारों का दायित्व है कि वह अपने प्रदेश के चाय बागानों के लिए न्यूनतम मजदूरी घोषित करें।

श्री मोहम्मद आज़म खान: सर, बहुत दिनों से ऑर्गनाइज्ड और अन-आर्गनाइज्ड लेबर पालिसी के सिलसिले में सरकार की पालिसी का एलान होता रहता है और मंत्री जी ने पहले भी कई बार कहा है कि खेतों में काम करने वाले, सड़कों पर काम करने वाले, मैदानों में काम करने वाले और इन चाय-बागान में काम करने वाले मजदूरों के लिए एक....

†[श्री محمد اعظم خاں: سر۔ بہت دنوں سے آرگنائزڈ اور ان آرگنائزڈ لیبر پالیسی کے سلسلے میں سرکار کی پالیسی کا اعلان ہوتا رہتا ہے اور منتری جی نے پہلے کئی بار کہا ہے کہ مختلف میں کام کرنے والے۔ سڑکوں پر کام کرنے والے۔ میدانوں میں کام کرنے والے اور ان چائے باغان میں کام کرنے والے مزدوروں کیلئے ایک ۔۔۔]

†[ ]Transilteration in Arabic Script

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Resource Crunch in Andhra Pradesh

*164. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has pointed out resource cruch to discharge their duties under the Constitution (74th Amendment) for acts like water supply, sanitation etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to assist the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Trade Agreements with Japan

*165. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the bilateral relations and global economic situation discussed at Indo-Japan talks on 18th January and 5th February, 1999;

(b) the details of trade agreements finalised; and

(c) the other mutually beneficial economic ties proposed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) The sixth round of India-Japan Foreign Secretary Level Talks and the Fourteenth round of Commerce Secretary